

# WANT CASH FOR HEALTH

## Board Makes New Estimates of Costs.

The Board of Health having prepared a new estimate of its proposed expenses for the coming year, the letter containing the items and reasons for asking the amounts is given below at the request of an officer of the Board, the publication in a morning contemporary having been incomplete, in that certain essential points were omitted.

Honolulu, H. T., May 18, 1901.  
William H. Wright, Esq., Treasurer of the Territory of Hawaii.

Sir: The Board of Health has, upon the recommendation contained in your communication of the 8th inst., carefully investigated the estimated appropriations required by the Board of Health for the coming biennial period as submitted in the Governor's recommendation to the Legislature and in the report of the President of this Board from November 10, 1900, to February 1, 1901, and beg leave to submit the following:

The sole ground upon which this report is made is that stated in your communication mentioned above, "the desirability of strict economy being observed in all the departments of Government service to enable it to meet public requirements; otherwise the Board would not feel justified in cutting down any of the items as already recommended."

The Board has approached the work of cutting down items affecting a department, as well as an economically organized as this one now is, with considerable hesitation. To cripple so important an institution would be a serious matter. With this in view the Board has attempted to rearrange the estimates to conserve and in some cases to strengthen the more essential items; in others to cut out and cut down those not so essential. The Board feels that its recommendations herewith submitted will not cripple the organization of the department in any way but will give the most effect to the least amount of money the Board can possibly get along with, besides resulting in an appreciable step towards economy in current expense, salaries and pay rolls, especially.

A few items such as steam and running expenses, quarantine and fumigation, children, buildings, for non-leprosy cases of leprosy, etc., have been added to the estimates already made for reasons hereinafter stated and in order that the same may be considered with the necessities of the other departments of the Government. The Board feels that the added items are entitled to special consideration not only for the reasons hereinafter advanced, in each case, but on account of the long step secured towards economy by recommendations of the committee on garbage and excavator service adopted by the Board on May 17, 1901, as follows:

"Resolved, That the charges for excavator service be made twice the amount now asked for such service; that the Board forthwith appoint a committee to draw up a scale of prices for garbage service; that as soon as practicable the present regulation for free garbage service be rescinded."

The above action will affect a saving to the Government of approximately \$70,000, together with:

- Subsidy to Queen's Hospital, \$20,000
- Subsidy to Lihue Hospital, 3,000
- Subsidy to Consumptive Ward, 5,000
- Subsidy to Kapilani Maternity Home, 4,000

Total, \$103,000

The Board feels that the above subsidy should be transferred to some other department as this Board has no control of the subject matter.

In conclusion the Board desires to reiterate that the estimates submitted in the Governor's recommendations are not any too ample to carry on this important department, such estimates being based on very close ideas of economy; that the estimates herewith submitted were based solely on the ground of the grave necessity of strict economy being observed in all departments of the government; that the department will be pushed to get on with the estimates herewith submitted and can not possibly get along with anything less, in pay and current expenses, especially; that the department is doing all in its power, particularly in connection with the excavator and garbage service, to curtail its expenses in view of assisting the Government through, what has been asserted, a shortage of funds.

Estimated appropriations required by the Board of Health for the coming biennial period:

- Salary of executive officer, \$4,000
- Monthly salary, 225
- Salary of secretary, 3,000
- Monthly salary, 150

The usual salary in all other departments for a secretary, \$1,500. The amount of work and the responsibility incurred does not justify a greater amount in this case.

- Salary of city sanitary officer, 3,500
- Monthly salary, 150

Though the duties of this office are important and arduous, \$150 is considered a sufficient compensation. For that sum there are many good men qualified for this position and willing to work.

- Salary of food commissioner and analyst, 4,200
- Monthly salary, 175

A saving on the above of \$1,000 for the period.

Note—The Governor's estimate of salary for the President of the Board of Health, \$7,500, is also eliminated, no provision having been made by the Legislature creating a salaried position.

Pay of Government physicians, \$39,120

Monthly Salaries—

- Waimea, Kauai, 60
- Koloa, Kauai, 60
- Lahoe, Kauai, 60
- Aiea and Hanalei, Kauai, 75
- Honolulu, two city physicians, 200
- Kona, Oahu, 60
- Waialeale, Oahu, 60
- Waialeale, Oahu, 60

This item is cut as the position

There is no more difficult than to find a man who is not only a good field for other practices.

This item is raised to \$100 on account of the difficulty of the position and of obtaining an incumbent to fill it. There is no outside practice at this place.

This item is cut as the amount of work does not justify so high a salary and the location is a good field for other practices.

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Bundary pay rolls, 1,000 00  
Total, \$1,000 00  
Maintenance of hospital pay roll, 1,540 00  
Monthly Salaries—  
Hospital Dispensary, 15 00  
Dispensary, 15 00  
Nurses, 60 00  
Kalihi Hospital nurse, 20 00  
Total, \$1,000 00

This hospital remains closed unless certain areas to open in saving for period, \$100, per month, \$15.

Superintendent and assistants, 25,000 00  
Monthly Salaries—  
Medical superintendent, superintendent, 200 00

The combining of these two items will effect a saving of \$25 per month. Under the present system the asylum receives but two or three hours out of every twenty-four of personal attention from the physician in charge. The object of combining the above items is to provide a salary for a resident physician of \$300 a month who will be at the same time superintendent, which amount, together with board and lodging free, would offer a sufficient consideration to a good man.

Two captains at \$50, 100 00  
One foreman at \$50, 50 00

The two captains receive board and lodging at the asylum, which is part of the consideration for which they work. They are cut down \$10 each.

The foreman is necessarily a mechanic and, moreover, does extra duty as faro man. A responsible man for this position cannot be got for any less.

Three guards at \$25, 75 00

This figure, together with board and lodging, is sufficient pay for this class of work.

Guard and matron at \$25, 70 00  
Four nurses at \$30, 120 00

One nurse not necessary.

One cook for patients, 40 00

One cook for superintendent and captain, 20 00

One laundryman, 15 00

One gardener, 15 00

One policeman, 15 00

One hostler, 5 00

Total, \$1,066 00

Two helpers struck out and one laundryman substituted. Three helpers struck out and one gardener and one policeman substituted. The changes are made on the ground that the Board should ask for appropriation for specific items. Our investigations have shown that in place of five helpers recommended in the President's report the three items just preceding the item hostler are only necessary. The above changes effect a saving for the biennial period of \$5,304, or per month, \$221.

Current Expenses—  
General expenses, \$13,000 00

Advertisements and printing, 4,000 00

The addition of \$1,000 for this item is recommended on the grounds that many new blanks are needed; expense of printing and advertising is continually increasing with the growth of the duties of the Board. To curtail the item to \$3,000 would seriously hamper the Board in its operation.

Incidentals, 3,000 00

This item as it stands we find insufficient for the numerous uses to which it is put. General experience is safer to rely upon than an investigation in items of determining the amount. Such experience is shown in the past that this amount has always been insufficient. We recommend an addition of \$500 thereto on condition that the records of births, deaths and marriages of a number of years ago are put in proper shape and rebound with part of the added amount.

Stationery and postage, 1,000 00

Laboratory supplies, 2,500 00

Burial of paupers and morgue expenses, 2,500 00

To curtail this item to \$1,000 is likely to lead to embarrassment on account of the purpose to which the appropriation is used, as with our growing population and other conditions the number of bodies which have to be buried at the expense of the Government is increasing greatly.

Increase in the above for period, \$3,000.

Medicines, 2,000 00

The Board originally made large was made \$2,000 upon the recommendation of a former president of the Board of Health on the ground of no longer supplying the Government physicians with drugs and medicines; that the same were to be furnished by the physicians themselves. This we find to be impracticable, and we therefore raise the item to the amount appropriated in the last biennial period for this purpose. Increase, \$7,000.

Support of non-leprosy children of lepers, 20,000 00

These three years old. However, at that time tonnage was much cheaper than at present, and I have no doubt that you can get a suitable vessel today from \$25,000 to \$35,000 (say the latter figure), and I don't think you will find any difficulty in finding a vessel, for the reason that they are building nowadays much larger vessels of that type.

The manning of the vessel requires consideration, owing to the handling of cattle. The following list gives the smallest possible crew to handle a steamer in that trade, viz: Two boats crews of five men each, 1 donkey driver, 1 chief mate, 1 chief engineer, 1 assistant engineer, 2 firemen, 1 cook, 1 cabin boy, 1 master. And the pay will be at the very least as follows:

Captain, certificated, 150 00

Chief engineer, certificated, 125 00

One assistant engineer, certificated, 100 00

Chief officer, certificated, 50 00

Donkey driver, 45 00

Cook, 45 00

Cabin boy, 35 00

Ten deck-hands at \$1 per day, 300 00

Two firemen at \$1 per day, 60 00

Provisions for this crew approximately, 255 00

Coal, 50 00

Incidentals, 1,000 00

Total, \$1,540 00

New buildings for non-leprosy children of leprosy parents, \$30,000 00

This item is recommended to the Legislature for the following reasons: The non-leprosy children of leprosy parents are properly a charge of the Government. The strongest reasons exist for the separation of such children from contact with lepers. The present accommodation

Total, \$34,000 00

No change recommended.

Segregation, support and treatment of lepers, \$160,000 00

Items—  
Board and cartage of lepers, 1,000 00

Medical supplies, 1,000 00

Freights and passage, 15,000 00

Kalihi station expenses, 10,000 00  
Baldwin Home expenses, 6,000 00  
Baldwin Home expenses, 2,000 00  
Lumber and building materials, 5,000 00  
Incidentals, 1,000 00  
Meat and fish, 10,000 00  
Beef and cattle, 4,000 00  
Hides, 2,000 00  
Bread, 3,000 00  
Rice, 3,000 00  
Flour and other supplies, 12,500 00

Total, \$10,000 00

No change recommended.

Remodeling station, \$4,000 00

No change recommended.

Maintenance garbage and excavator service, \$25,000 00

Items—  
Repairs to appliances, 3,000 00

Harness and repairs to same, 2,000 00

Hose and new appliances, 2,000 00

Shovel live stock, 2,500 00

The above items can be made to last only with strictest economy.

Hay and grain, 12,000 00

This item has been increased by \$2,000, as it appears to the Board impossible to make it last out for the purpose for which it is appropriated.

Live stock, 2,500 00

Incidentals, 1,000 00

Total, \$25,000 00

Increase for period in maintenance of garbage and excavator service, \$2,000.

Running expenses garbage excavator, 7,500 00

Completion of garbage crematory, 9,000 00

Maintenance of hospitals, 1,500 00

Items—  
Honolulu dispensary, 500 00

Unless the new dispensary is built, not more than \$500 is needed for this item.

Koloa hospital, 1,000 00

This hospital has not been transferred to trustees and not subsidized as in the case of hospitals hereinafter enumerated.

Amount saved, \$500.

Subsidy Waimea hospital, 2,400 00

Subsidy Lihue hospital, 2,400 00

This cut is made on the ground of the necessity for economy.

Subsidy Kapilani Maternity Home, 5,000 00

Subsidy to consumptive ward, 4,500 00

Subsidy to steamship service, 5,000 00

Subsidy to Honolulu, Molokai and Maui, 5,000 00

Amount saved on above subsidies for period, \$2,000.

New ward building at Insane asylum, 30,000 00

This building is to replace ward No. 2, built in 1866, the first building ever erected on the premises. A committee of the Board personally inspected this building and found same to be a wooden building in the last stages of decay and dilapidation in spite of the efforts that have been made to keep it together. It was condemned by the Superintendent of Public Works, Robert Sterling, in 1878. The Board are aware that the strongest reasons and recommendations for a new building at this place have been advanced by previous committees of this Board and by the Territorial Grand Jury, which ought to insure the appropriation asked for without further recommendation. We consider the structure unfit and dangerous to live in and that the Government assumes grave responsibilities in placing asylum inmates therein.

Steamship for Board of Health service, 35,000 00

Running expenses of steamer, 35,000 00

These two items are recommended to the consideration of the Legislature on the following grounds:

First—Grave inefficiency of the present service.

Second—Great expense of the same. The Board of Health freight and passage bills amount to about \$500 per month, while the subsidy given for such service brings the amount to about \$1,150 per month.

Third—The losses through reckless handling of cattle and freight, the responsibility for which the present carriers absolutely refuse to assume, still further increases this amount.

Fourth—The necessity, in view of the condition of the tug Eleu, of having a reliable vessel for towing garbage out. It will cost approximately about \$50 a day to hire a boat for this service.

Fifth—Common carrier should not carry lepers.

The Board, through one of its members, has had an estimate made and a report submitted as to the cost of a boat and running expenses, as follows:

"A steamer suitable for the purpose should have a speed of not less than eight knots per hour and should have enough space forward to handle fifty head of cattle. The type of steamer must be adapted for the business under consideration is the steam schooner having large hull power. At the speed already stated such vessel would not consume more than six tons of coal in twenty-four hours. The steamer Hawaii is of type, but rather large for the purpose. She cost, when bought, \$35,000, and was three years old. However, at that time tonnage was much cheaper than at present, and I have no doubt that you can get a suitable vessel today from \$25,000 to \$35,000 (say the latter figure), and I don't think you will find any difficulty in finding a vessel, for the reason that they are building nowadays much larger vessels of that type."

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